

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00

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R 240740Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

INFO CHUSDLG JAKARTA

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

SECSTATE WASHDC 6230

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 4443

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, SN, ID

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR FLIGHT CLEARANCE FOR USDLG AIRCRAFT EN ROUTE
TO JAKARTA

REF: CHUSDLG MESSAGE DTG 220700Z SEP 76

1. REF MESSAGE REQUESTS USDAO SINGAPORE OBTAIN FROM GOS FLIGHT CLEARANCE FOR A DLG AIRCRAFT (C-12A) TO TRAVEL TO SINGAPORE FROM MEDAN WITH TWO DAYS' STOPOVER IN SINGAPORE BEFORE CONTINUING TO JAKARTA. (MESSAGE ALSO REQUESTS OVERFLIGHT OF MALAYSIA DURING PORTION OF FLIGHT FROM MEDAN TO SINGAPORE.) MESSAGE INDICATES FLIGHT WILL CARRY SIX U.S. PASSENGERS AND ONE IN-
DONESIAN ARMY COLONEL. FLIGHT DESCRIBED AS BEING NECESSARY TO TRAVEL OT MAP-FUNDED COMMUNICATIONS SITE ON INDONESIAN ISLAND SOUTH OF SINGAPORE. PURPOSE OF LANDING IN SINGAPORE IS DESCRIBED AS "POSITIONING SORTIE TO INSPECT/ADVISE INDONESIANS CONCERNING INDOCOM SITE ON ISLAND SOUTH OF SINGAPORE."

2. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE PROPOSED FLIGHT IS PROBABLY A ROUTINE OPERATION DESIGNED TO PROMOTE A MAP SUPPORTED PROJECT IN IN-
DONESIA. MOREOVER, IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT THE GOS WOULD NOT QUESTION IT. HOWEVER, THE PRESENCE OF AN INDONESIAN COLONEL COULD PRICIPITATE QUESTIONS AND AROUSE SUSPICIONS IF THE ANSWERS
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SEEMED VAGUE AND UNPRECISE. (THE GOS RETAINS A LINGERING DISTRUST

OF THE INDONESIAN MILITARY.) ASIDE FROM THIS POSSIBILITY, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT AS A MATTER OF POLICY THE U.S. SHOULD NOT USE SINGAPORE AS A TRANSIT POINT OR STAGING AREA TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MILITARY SITE IN A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY WITHOUT TELLING THE GOS PRECISELY WHAT WE ARE DOING AND WHAT ARE THE NATURE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE SITE BEING DEVELOPED. THEREFORE, BEFORE SUBMITTING CLEARANCE REQUEST TO MFA, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. WHAT IS THE NATURE AND FUNCTION OF THE COMMUNICATIONS SITE TO BE ESTABLISHED? WHAT IS THE EXTENT OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THIS PROJECT? IS TRANSIT THROUGH SINGAPORE TO INSPECT THIS SITE ESSENTIAL OR MERELY CONVENIENT, AND ARE THERE LIKELY TO BE ANY FURTHER REQUESTS FOR CLEARANCE OF ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS?

3. IT WOULD, OF COURSE, BE MORE APPROPRIATE IF THE INDONESIAN MILITARY USED THEIR OWN AIRCRAFT TO INSPECT THEIR COMMUNICATIONS SITE AND APPROACHED THE GOS DIRECTLY FOR FLIGHT CLEARANCE. HOWEVER, IF THE USE OF A U.S. AIRCRAFT IS ESSENTIAL, WE THINK IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT TO APPROACH THE GOS FIRST AND INFORM THEM ABOUT THE PROJECT AND THE PROSPECTIVE FLIGHT. WE COULD THEN FOLLOW UP WITH THE SPECIFIC FLIGHT CLEARANCE REQUEST.

4. PLEASE ADVISE.
GRANT

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